

18CV85

File Report

Julia A. King

1999

## Introduction

An earthfast building, probably a tobacco house, was identified in the King's Reach field at the Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum (Figure 1). King's Reach is the 20<sup>th</sup> century place name given to the Taylor's Disposal property, an approximately 180-acre tract of land located on the east bank of the Patuxent River in Calvert County, Maryland. Taylor's Disposal may have come into the ownership of Richard Smith, Jr., Surveyor General and friend of the beleaguered Lord Baltimore, by 1690. Taylor's Disposal is one of many tracts appearing in Smith's 1715 will.

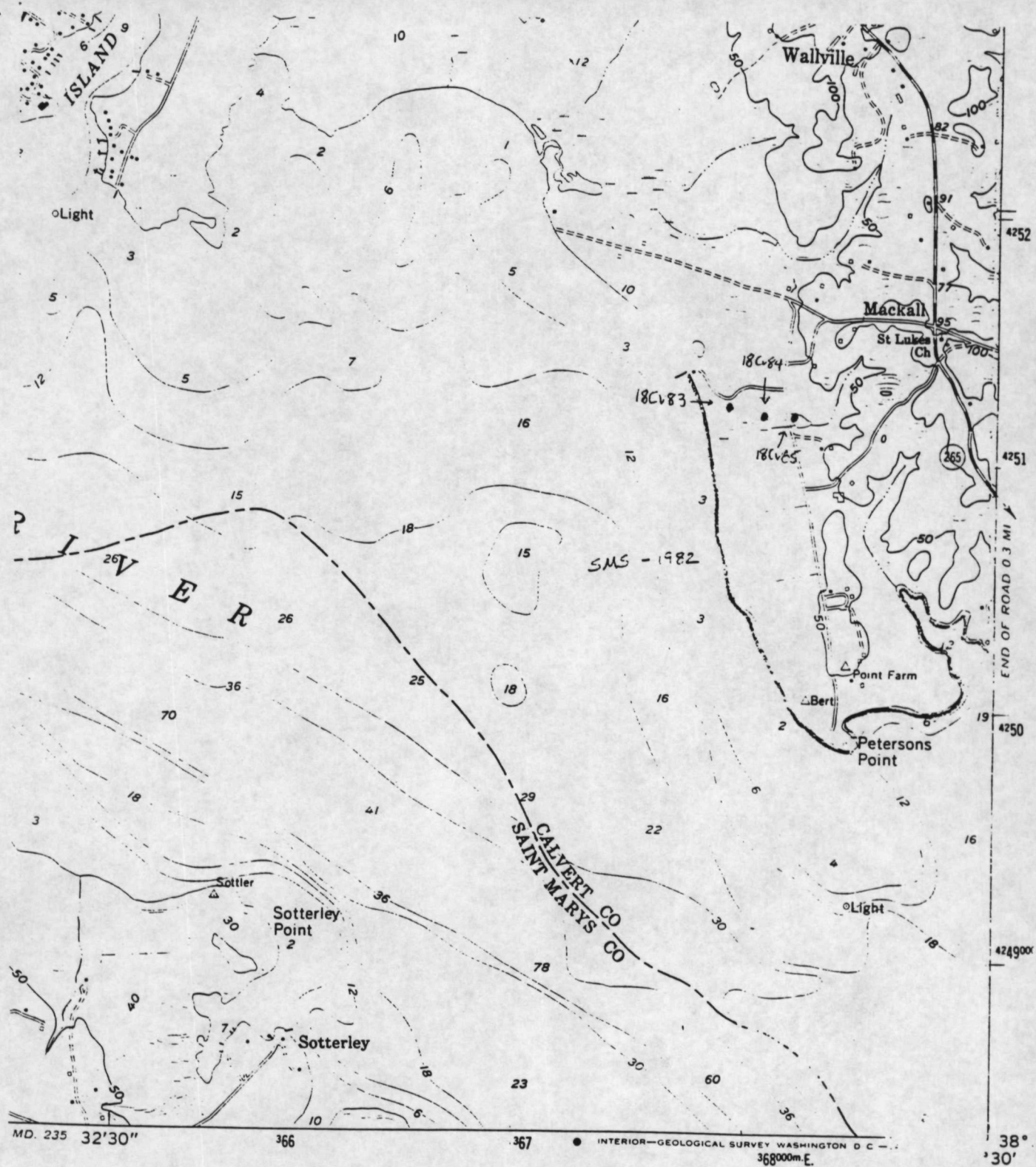
Smith may have built and occupied the 20-x-30-ft. earthfast building (18CV83) uncovered during excavation in 1984 and 1985 (Pogue 1990; Figure 2). There is some question whether Smith owned the property at this time and, if he did, whether he would have occupied such a small, impermanent structure. Unfortunately, the documentary evidence provides few clues about ownership and occupation during this period. Regardless of whether Smith owned the property by 1690, this building does seem to be the principal dwelling on the tract at this time. The earthfast structure at 18CV85 appears to be a part of this plantation complex.

This brief file report describes the archaeological investigations undertaken at 18CV85 and the remains of the earthfast building recovered there.

## Background

Archaeological site 18CV85 was first identified in 1981 during a pedestrian survey of the Patterson property in Calvert County, Maryland. At that time, surveyors recovered two wrought nails as well as a number of prehistoric artifacts at the head of a lowland terrace on the east bank of the Patuxent River. 18CV85 was identified as a "historic outbuilding" and as a "prehistoric interior transient path-site" (Clark 1981). In 1991, 18CV85 was relocated as part of a Phase I preconstruction archaeological survey for a utility line at the Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum. In 1993 and 1994, Phase II and III archaeological investigations were undertaken at 18CV85 prior to utility line construction. Only that area of the site located in the utility corridor right-of-way was excavated. All of these investigations were conducted under the direction of Julia A. King and Edward E. Chaney, Jr.

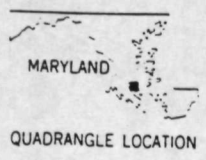
Fifteen 1.5-x-1.5-meter test units were excavated at 18CV85 within the utility corridor right-of-way to recover a sample of plow zone artifacts and their distributions (Figure 3). These units were spaced approximately four to seven meters (13 to 23 feet) apart within the right-of-way. The plow zone in these units was excavated using shovels and trowels. Soil was screened through ¼-inch hardware cloth and all cultural materials were saved. Following the completion of test unit excavation, the remaining plow zone within the right-of-way at 18CV85 was mechanically removed. All exposed features were photographed, mapped, and excavated. All



**ROAD CLASSIFICATION**

Heavy-duty	—————	Light-duty	—————
Medium-duty	—————	Unimproved dirt	-----

**SECOND COPY**      ○ State Route



**BROOMES ISLAND, MD.**  
 NE/4 LEONARDTOWN 15' QUADRANGLE  
 N38225 W7630/75

Figure 1. Location of 18Cv85

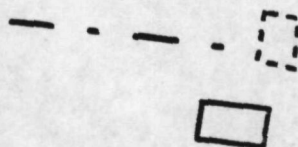
Dwelling



40  
feet



Quarter



Tobacco House?



Figure 2 King's Reach Field. 18Cv85 is the Tobacco House.



# Location of Test Units

18CV85  
MAC/MSU Utility  
Corridor Survey - Area 4

46 1510

10 X 10 TO THE CENTIMETER  
KEUFFEL & ESSER CO. MADE IN U.S.A.

K&E

0 3  
metre

N2959  
E1927

N2950  
E1927

N2950  
E1926

N2952  
E1927

N2919  
E1927

tobacco house

limit of mechanical shipping

Figure 3. River Zone units at 18CV85



features were excavated in quarter sections in order to document south and west profiles. The fill from all features was screened through ¼-inch hardware cloth, and all artifacts were retained. The artifacts are curated by the Maryland Historical Trust at the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory in St. Leonard.

### The Earthfast Building

The west wall of an earthfast building was identified within the utility corridor crossing 18CV85 (Figure 4). This structure measured 50 ft x approximately 24 ft, represented by five post molds and holes within the utility line right-of-way.<sup>1</sup> The post molds ranged from 1.3 to 1.6 feet in diameter, while the holes measured as wide as four feet in diameter (Figure 5). These post molds and holes are unusually large when compared with other earthfast structures in colonial Maryland and imply a fairly substantial building.

The four exposed post molds and post holes of the building's west wall (41E/F, 39E/F, 38E/F, 36E/F/G) were excavated as was a post hole and mold (38G/H) located on the building's interior. The west wall posts had been set into holes stepped on their west sides and the bottom elevations of the west wall post molds were, north to south respectively, 10.27, 10.24, 10.43, and 10.29 meters above sea level (Figure 6). With the exception of post 38E, the bottom mold elevations are within 5 cm (approximately 2 inches). The bottom mold of 38E is 18 cm (almost six inches) shorter than the other molds. The stepped west sides of the post holes and the similar bottom elevations of the post molds suggest that the west wall of this building was erected as a preassembled sidewall (Morrison 1985:126). Constructing and lifting this wall, with posts measuring well over one foot and as much as one and a half feet in diameter, would have been a major job.

Large fragments of wood, almost certainly cedar, were recovered from three post molds (36E, 38E, and 39E). The wood fragments have a striking cedar smell. Today, the principal use of cedar wood is for fence posts, furniture, and millwork [research use of cedar in colonial building construction].

A post mold and hole (38G/H) located on the interior of the building, were also excavated. The mold (38G), measuring approximately one foot in diameter, was characterized by yellowish brown clay loam, suggesting the post had been pulled rather than rotted in place. A second interior post, (which was not excavated) was located approximately 4.5 feet south of 38G. These two post molds are located six feet east of the exterior west wall along the center bay of the west wall (cf., Figure 4). The post mold had a bottom mold elevation of 10.58 meters above sea level, extending 21 inches below the base of plow zone.

One comparable archaeological example of a large earthfast structure is a 50-x-20-ft building excavated at Kingsmill Plantation (Kelso 1984:133-135). Postmolds one foot in diameter were set in postholes three feet in diameter. The posts were irregularly spaced from 9

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<sup>1</sup> The two posts of the south end wall were partially exposed but not excavated.

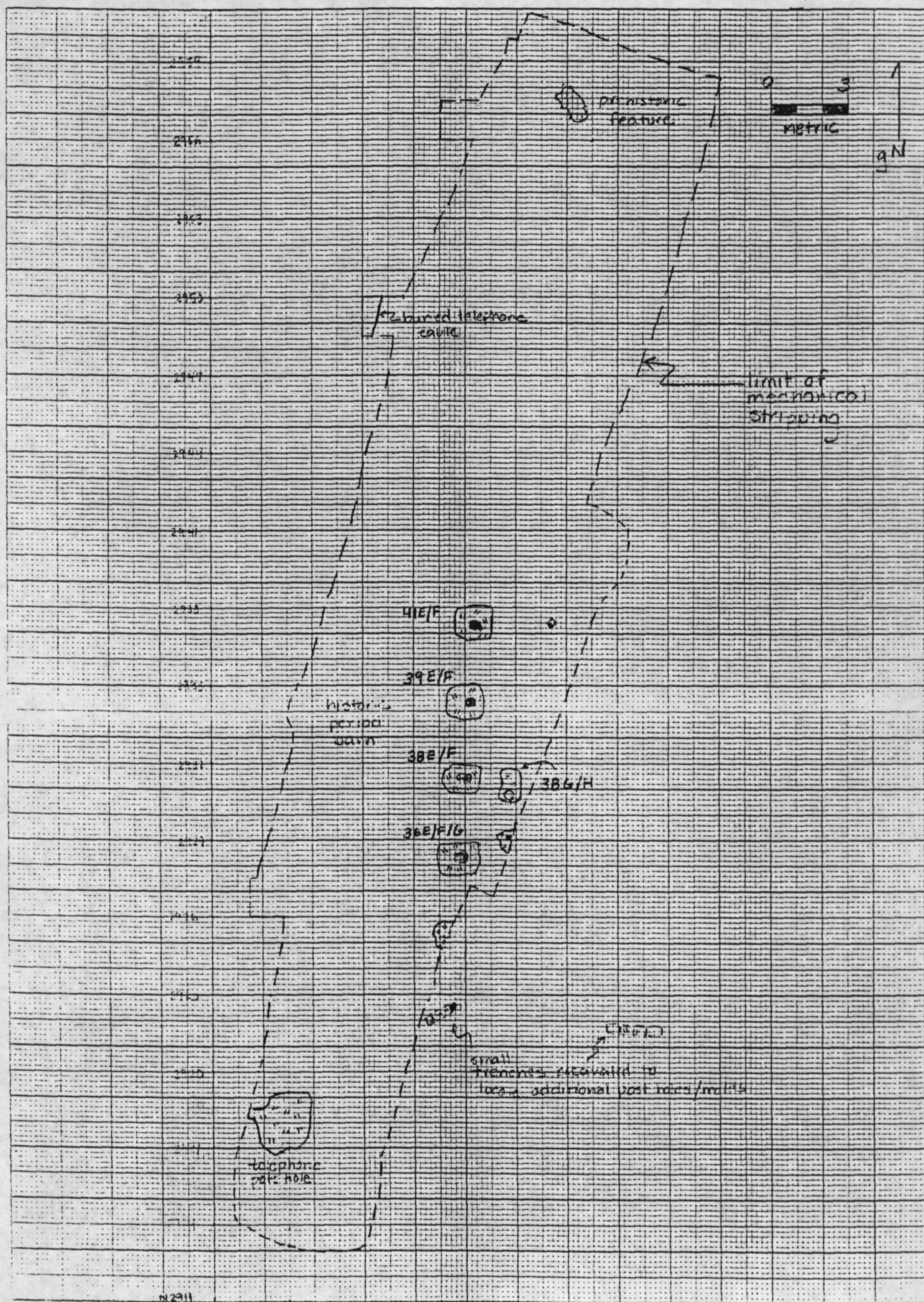


Figure 4. Plan of Earthquake Building at 1867-75.



46 1510

K&E 10 X 10 TO THE CENTIMETER KEUFFEL & ESSER CO. MADE IN U.S.A.

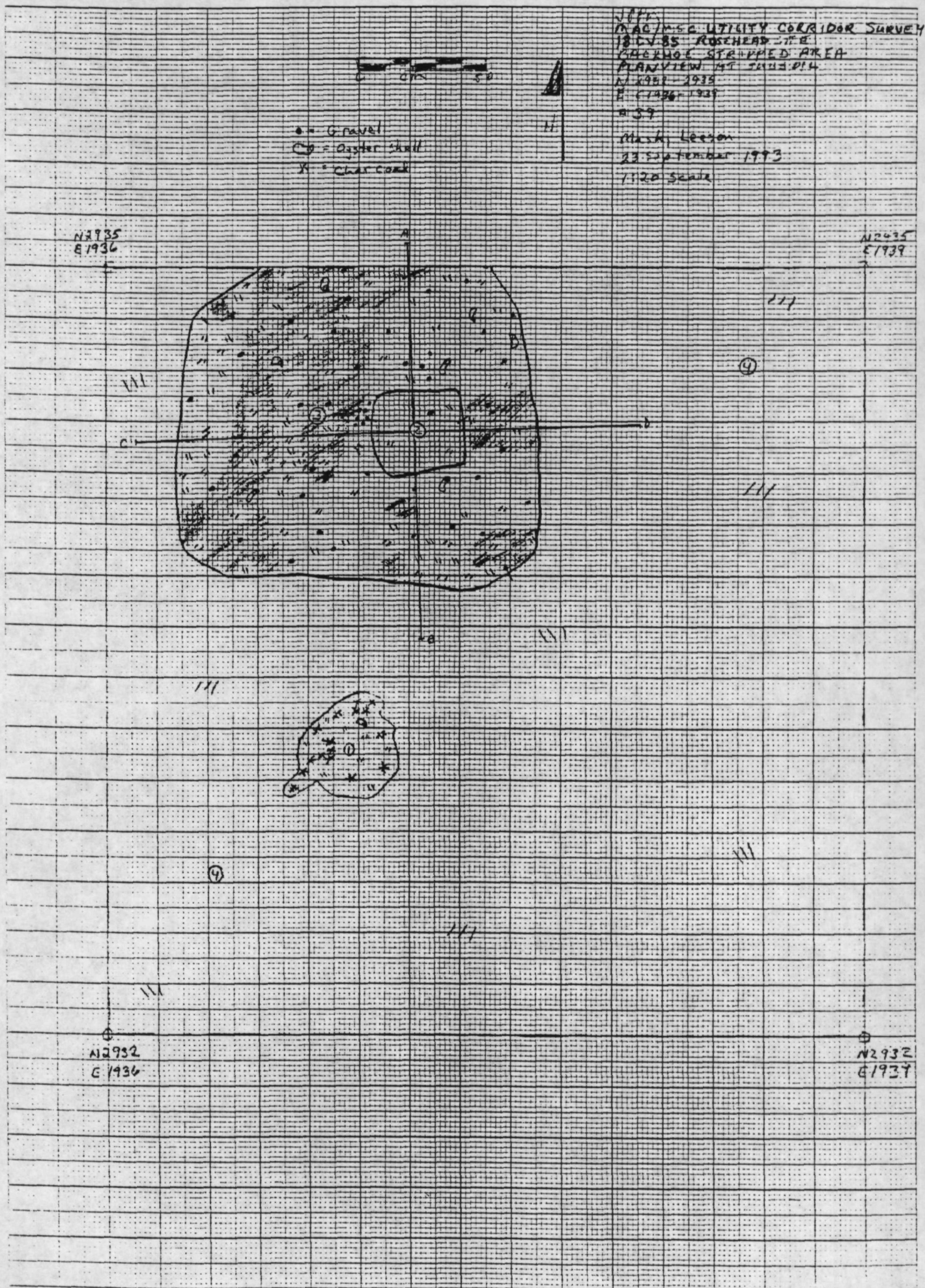


Figure 5. Plan of Post Hole/Mound 39E/F



JEFFERSON PATTERSON PARK AND MUSEUM  
SOILS DESCRIPTION

Site No. MAC/msc utility Corridor Survey  
Site Name 18CV85 - Rosehead Site  
Unit No. 939  
North 2932 to 2935  
East 1936 to 1939  
Description Plan View at Subsoil

Recorder(s) Chane  
Date 23 September 1993

① yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) clay loam with  
moderate charcoal and occasional shell  
[Probable Prehistoric Burnt Root]

② 75% brown/dark brown (10YR 4/3) sandy silt loam  
mottled with 4% yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) clay loam and 1% light gray/gray  
(10YR 6/1) clay, and with occasional gravel [Post in situ] [39E]

③ 40% dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) sandy silt loam mixed with 30% dark  
brown (10YR 3/3) sandy silt loam and 20% yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) clay  
loam, and mottled with 7% yellowish brown (10YR 5/4) clay loam and  
3% light gray/gray (10YR 6/1) clay, and with light gravel and occasional  
shell + charcoal [Post Hole] [39F]

④ yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) clay loam with occasional gravel [Subsoil]

macInnis utility Corridor Survey  
18 CV 85 - Rosehead Site  
039 Backhoe Stripped Area

NR 932-2935  
E 1936-1939

Profile Line D-C

Post Hole and Mold

Scale 1:10

Chand. Luson 16 October 1993

○ = Shell

⊙ = Wood

• = Gravel

⋈ = Cement

Facing South

String Line Elevation = 11.205m ASL

String Line  
Surface  
NR 932-2935  
E 1936-1939

C  
NR 932-2935  
E 1936-1939

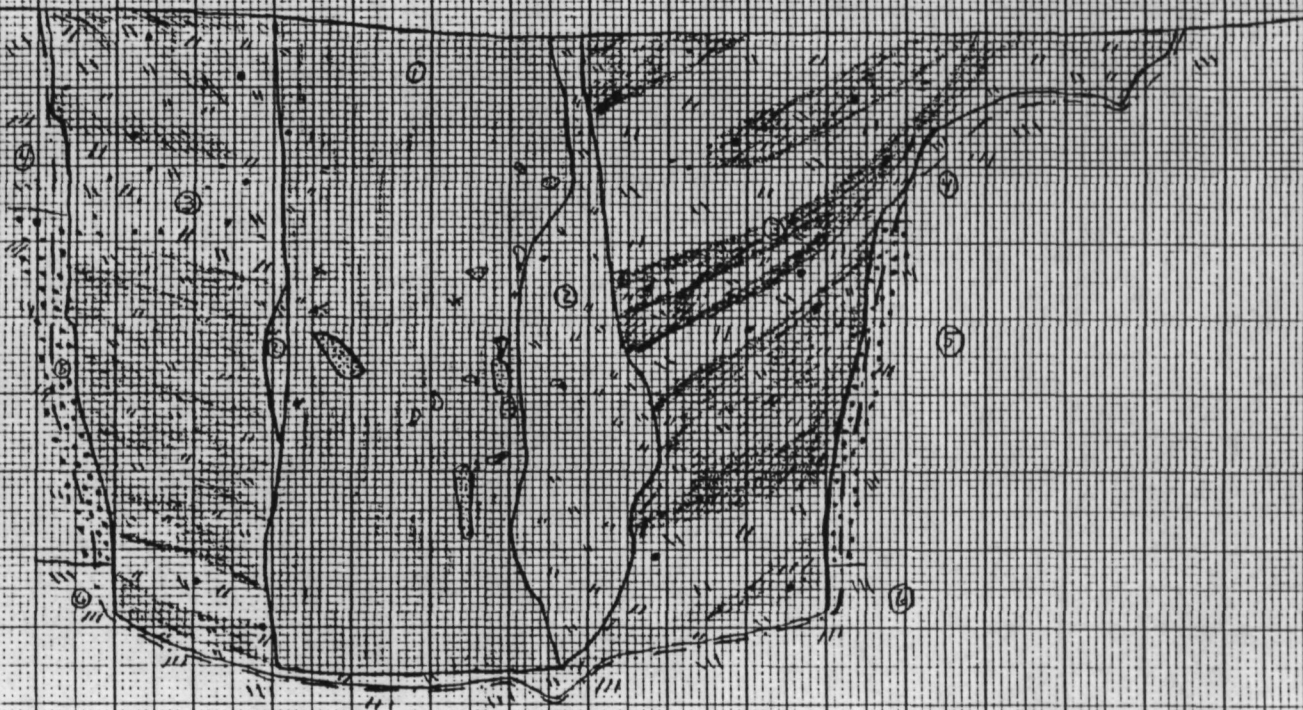


Figure 6. South Wall Profile, 39E/F



JEFFERSON PATTERSON PARK AND MUSEUM  
SOILS DESCRIPTION

Site No. mac/misc utility Corridor Survey  
Site Name 18 CV 85 - Rosehead Site  
Unit No. 39  
North 2932 to 2935  
East 1936 to 1939  
Description Profile Line D-C  
Post Hole - Mold  
Recorder(s) 6 Oct. 1993  
Date Chaney, Leeson, King

① 98% dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) sandy silt loam mottled

with 1% yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) clay loam and 1%

light brownish gray (10YR 4/2) clay, with wood fragments

and occasional shell, charcoal, and occasional gravel [Post Mold] (Excavated as 39E)

② 50% yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) clay loam mottled with 49% dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) sandy

silt loam and 1% light brownish gray (10YR 4/2) clay, and with occasional shell + gravel (soil is loosely packed)

[Post Mold Slump Area?] (Excavated with 39E)

③ 45% yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) clay loam mottled with 35% dark brown (10YR 2/3) sandy

silt loam, 10% light gray/gray (10YR 4/1) clay, and 10% dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4)

sandy silt loam, and with occasional to moderate gravel and occasional shell [Post Hole]

(Excavated as 39F)

④ yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) clay loam [Subsoil]

⑤ yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) clayey sand with moderate to heavy gravel [Subsoil]

⑥ Light gray/gray (10YR 4/1) clay [Subsoil]



to 13 feet apart, suggesting the lack of flooring sills and the likelihood of a dirt floor. This building was probably a "tobacco-curing and/or-storage barn" (Kelso 1984:135).

### Artifact Analysis

Two hundred twenty-four historic period artifacts were recovered from the 14 plow zone units excavated at 18CV85. Five thousand nine hundred seventy-seven fragments (6832.4 gm) of oyster shell and three fragments (0.8 gm) of animal bone were also recovered from the units, but these materials may be associated with an earlier prehistoric occupation of the site. Forty-one (18.3 percent) of the 224 artifacts, including 10 clear bottle glass fragments, 30 brown bottle glass fragments, and one machine-made brick, are modern in date. The prehistoric and historic materials (including the modern objects) are listed in Table 1.

The artifacts recovered from 18CV85 indicate that the site was occupied in the colonial period, possibly as early as c.1690, when the principal dwelling (18CV83) was constructed. A fragment of Rhenish brown stoneware and two white clay tobacco pipes stems with 4/64ths and 5/64ths bore diameters, respectively, suggest a late 17<sup>th</sup> or early 18<sup>th</sup> century date. Further, the structure at 18CV85 is built on the same orientation as a building at 18CV84, a quarter associated with Smith's dwelling (18CV83) and occupied c.1690. A fragment each of Staffordshire earthenware, Buckley earthenware, white salt-glazed stoneware, and blue shell-edged pearlware as well as white clay pipe fragments suggest the building was used well into the 18<sup>th</sup> century, possibly as late as c.1800.

Artifacts recovered from 18CV85 indicate that the site was probably not a dwelling or a quarter. Domestic artifacts included only seven ceramic, six white clay pipe, and two colonial bottle glass fragments. Interestingly, 13 European flint fragments (including a striker) were recovered from the plow zone units at 18CV85. One hundred twenty two wrought nails and nail fragments were also recovered from the plow zone units. Nine whole nails measured 1 1/8 to 2 1/8 inches, with eight measuring less than two inches in length. The length of these nails suggests they were used to pin shingles on the structure's roof. These artifacts are consistent with activities that might be expected to occur around an agricultural building, including flint knapping, some smoking, and building repair.

The historic artifacts display interesting spatial patterning around the structure. The highest density of wrought nails and nail fragments is located in test units located along the west edge of the study area, nearly twenty feet west of the building (Figure 7). Fossil rock (measured by weight) concentrates around the building, with the heaviest concentration (nearly 300 grams) in the area of post mold/hole 38E/F (Figure 8). Fossil rock may have been used to shore up sagging posts. Tobacco pipe fragments cluster along the building's southwest corner, while European flint fragments were recovered from a more widely dispersed area (Figures 9 and 10).

Nearly all of the post holes and post molds excavated at 18CV85 contained prehistoric Native American ceramics and lithics (Table 2). The large numbers of oyster shell fragments recovered from the post holes suggest that the shell at 18CV85 is most likely associated with the site's prehistoric occupation. The four excavated side wall post holes, including 36F, 38F, 39F,

Table 1 . Types and counts of artifacts recovered  
from plow zone units, 18CV85.

Ceramics, prehistoric

Townsend Series 10

Marley Series 1

Lithics, prehistoric

Quartz cobble 1

Quartz primary shatter flake 1

Quartz secondary flake 6

Quartz secondary shatter flake 6

Quartz tertiary flake 13

Quartz tertiary shatter flake 9

Quartzite secondary flake, heat-altered 1

Quartzite secondary shatter flake 6

Quartzite tertiary flake 4<sup>1</sup>

Quartzite fire-cracked rock 8

Chert primary flake 2

Chert primary shatter flake 1

Chert secondary flake 6

Chert tertiary flake 5

Chert, heat-altered fragment 1

Chert, fire-cracked rock 1

Unid. stone, tertiary flake 1

Ceramics, historic

Rhenish brown stoneware, molded 1

Staffordshire-like earthenware 1

Buckley earthenware, clear glaze 1

Dipped white salt-glazed sw 1

Blue shell-edged pearlware 1

Yellowware 1

Porcelain, plain prob. 19th c. 1

<sup>1</sup> One has been bifacially retouched

White clay tobacco pipes	
Pipe bowl fragment	4
Pipe stem, 4/64"	1
Pipe stem, 5/64"	1
Pipe stem, unmeas.	1
European flint	13 <sup>2</sup>
Glass	
Light green bottle glass	2
Clear bottle glass (modern)	10
Brown bottle glass (modern)	30
Bone	3 (0.8 gm)
Oyster Shell	5977 (6832.4 gm)
Nails	
Common-headed wrought nails	7
Common-headed wrought nail frags	54
T-headed wrought nails	3
T-headed wrought nail frags	5
Wrought nail shaft frags	45
Unid. sq. nail w/wrought head	1
Unid. nail	25
Brick/Daub	
Daub	
Handmade red brick	14 (97.0 gm)
Machine red brick <sup>3</sup>	1 (2465.2 gm)

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<sup>2</sup> One has been used as a striker



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K-E 10 X 10 TO THE CENTIMETER 18 X 25 CM  
KEUFFEL & ESSER CO. MADE IN U.S.A.

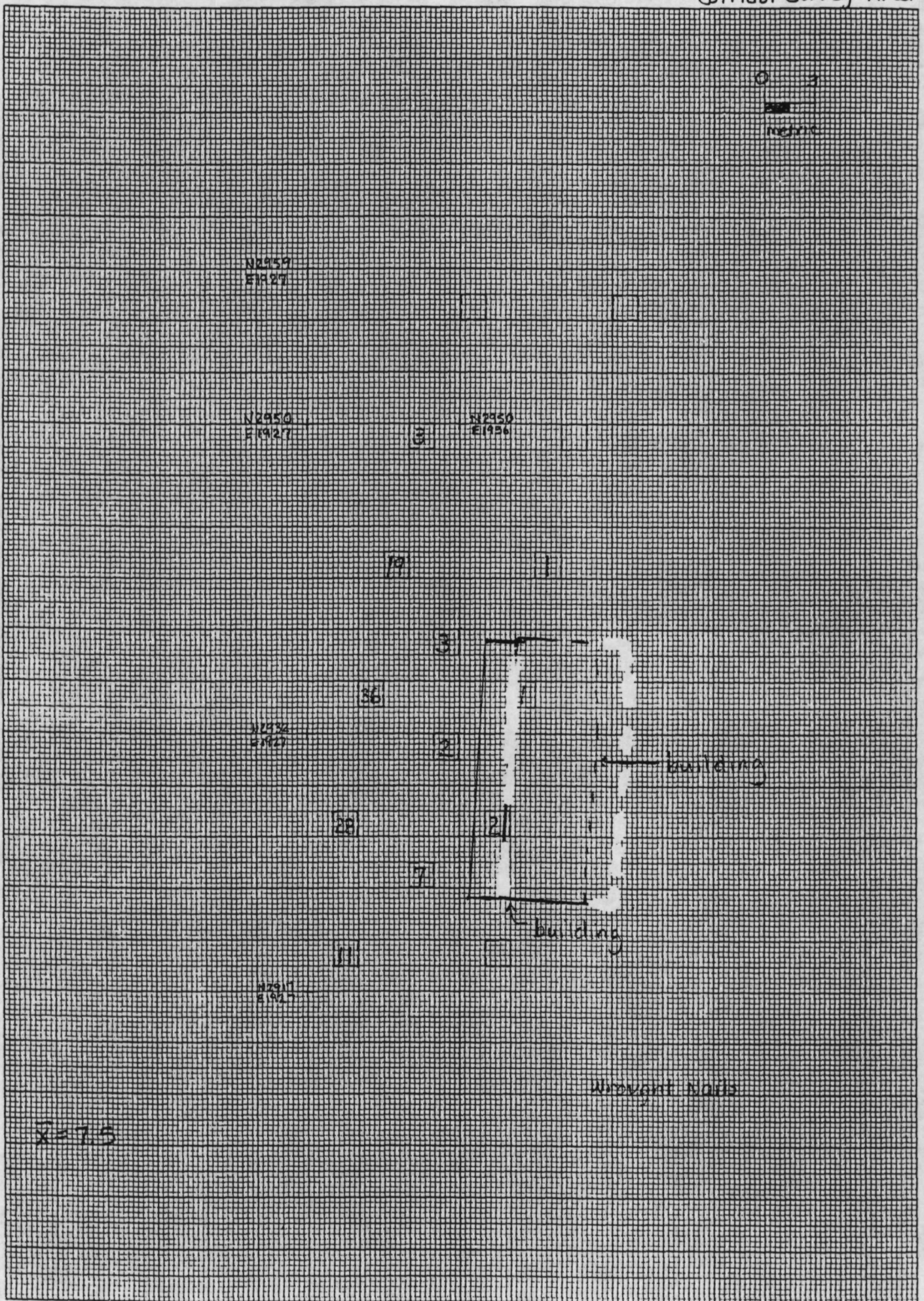


Figure 7. Distribution of wrought nails and nail



46 1510

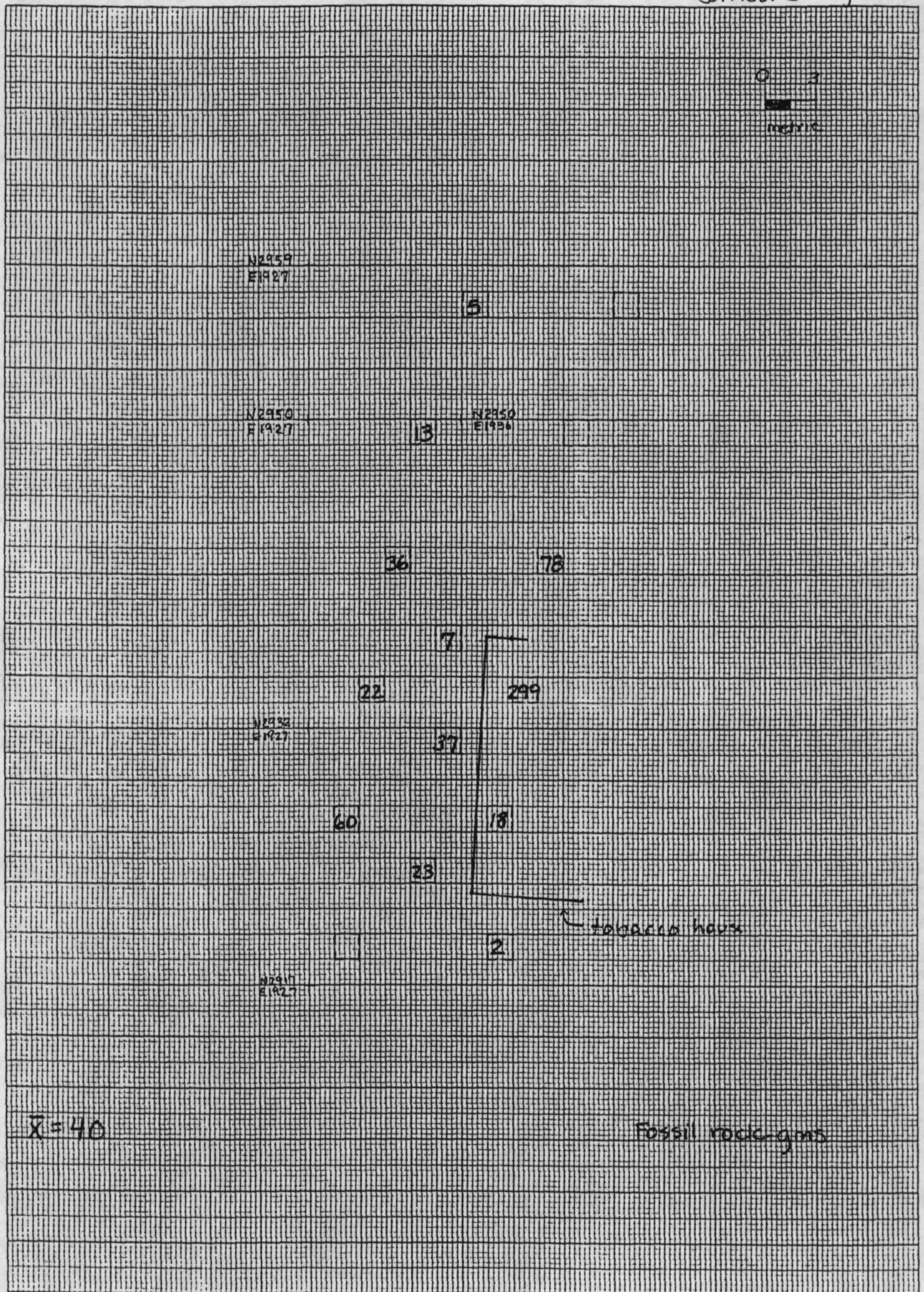
10 X 10 TO THE CENTIMETER  
18 X 25 CMK&E  
KEUFFEL & ESSER CO. MADE IN U.S.A.

Figure 8. Distribution of Fossil Rock in Grams



46 1510

18 X 25 CM

K&E 10 X 10 TO THE CENTIMETER  
KEUFFEL & ESSER CO. MADE IN U.S.A.

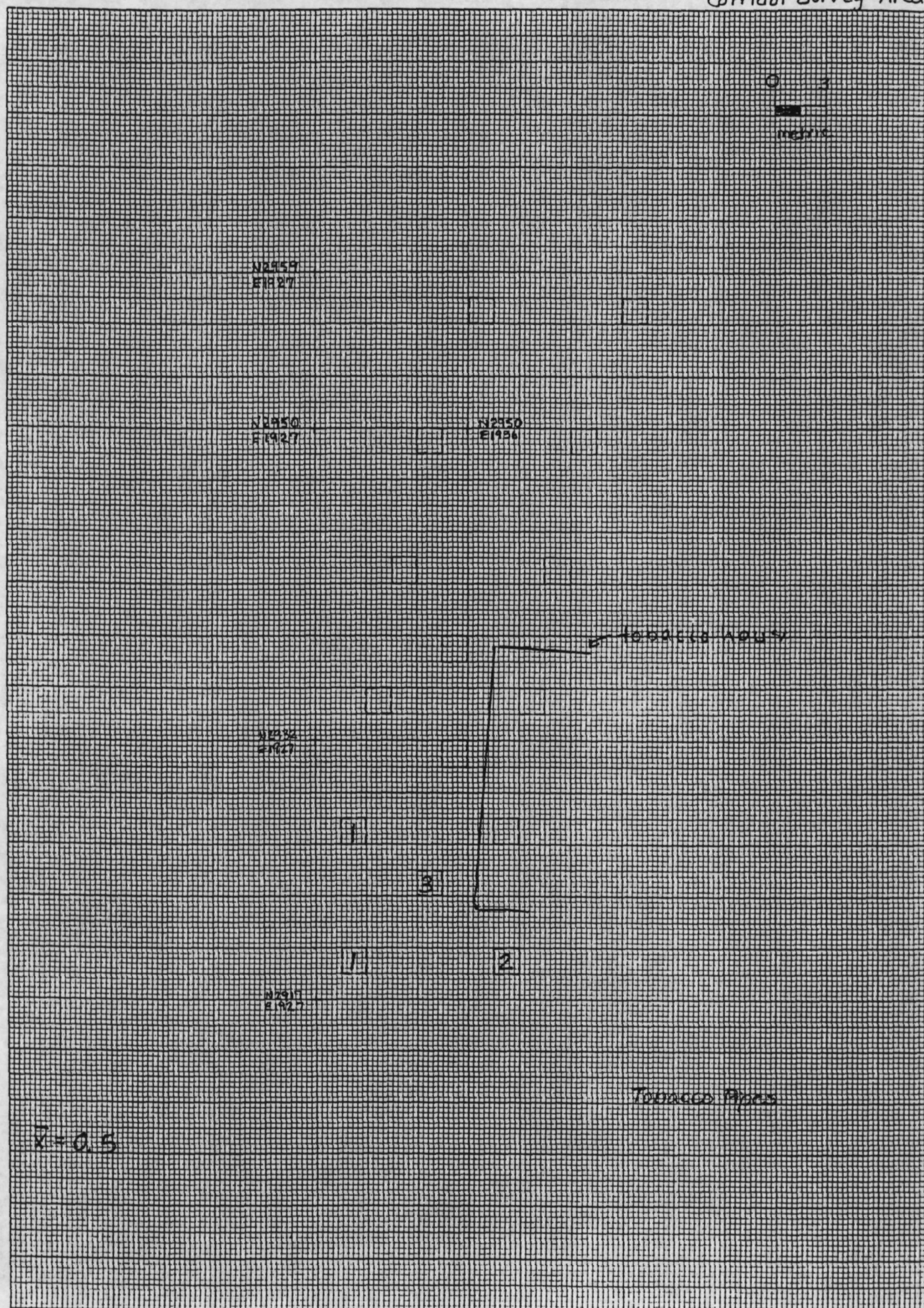


Figure 9. Distribution of tobacco pipe fragments



Figure 10. Distribution of European Flint

Provenience	36E	38E	38G	39E	41E	36F	38F	38H	39F	41F
Prehistoric ceramic	1	-	-	3	2	6	3	2	5	-
Prehistoric lithic	2	1	-	2	2	5	7	1	2	3
Rhenish brown sw	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
White clay pipe bowl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Thin lt. green glass	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
European flint	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Bone	3	1	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-
Oyster Shell	207	625	467	203	111	2980	8160	4481	680	447
Clam Shell	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Wrought nail	2	2	-	-	1 <sup>1</sup>	1	-	1	-	-
Wrought nail frag.	3	10	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1
Cut nail w/wrought head										
Unid. nail	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Unid. metal	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	4	2	-
Daub	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Handmade brick	2	2	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Fossil rock	288	26	-	-	-	66	5	54	2	3
Ferric rock	73	11	-	3	-	45	-	-	1	-
Charcoal	137	2	2	-	3	108	-	8	7	1
Wood	7	1	-	*	-	-	1	-	1	-

<sup>1</sup> described as spike

Table 2. Types and counts of artifacts recovered from past moks and

and 41F contained few historic materials, indicating these holes were dug before refuse accumulated on the site. The historic materials recovered from the side wall post holes include wrought nails, daub, and, in one hole, two pieces of unidentified metal. The molds of the side wall posts contained glass, flint, handmade brick, and nails. Post hole 38H, located inside the side wall, was probably dug after the site had been in use for sometime. A fragment of Rhenish brown stoneware, a white clay pipe bowl sherd, two nails, and four unidentified metal pieces were recovered from this hole.



## References Cited

Clark, Wayne E.

1981 Maryland Historical Trust Site Survey Form, 18CV85. On file, Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, Md.

Kelso, William M.

1984 *Kingsmill Plantations, 1619-1800: Archaeology of Country Life in Colonial Virginia*. New York, Academic Press

Morrison, Alexander H., II

1985 A New Way of looking at Old Holes: Methods for Excavating and Interpreting Timber Structures. In Roy S. Dickens, Jr. and H. Trawick Ward, eds., *Structure and Process in Southeastern Archaeology*, pp. 119-134. University, Alabama, The University of Alabama Press.

Pogue, Dennis J.

1990 *King's Reach and 17<sup>th</sup>-Century Plantation Life*. Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum Studies in Archaeology 1. St. Leonard.

## KING'S REACH SITE (c. 1690-1715)

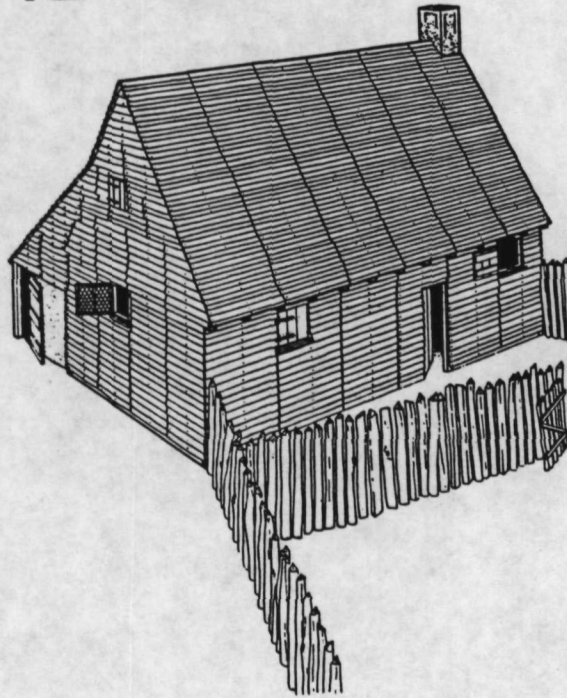
Tobacco plantation established by an unidentified, but relatively wealthy planter. The remains of an earthfast (30' x 30') main house and an associated earthfast (20' x 10') quarter were discovered below the plowzone. The quarter was connected to the main house by two pailing fences which formed an enclosed yard. The first floor of the main house was divided into two rooms - the kitchen and parlor. Two attached sheds, one along the western wall and a smaller one along the northern wall were unheated and accommodated a number of household chores and storage. The remains of six cellars were preserved in the main house, most of which were the result of successive construction episodes due to collapsing cellar walls. Two of the cellars had specialized functions. One, used as a dairy, was associated with the small shed on the northern portion of the house. Another special-function cellar was associated with the fireplace, and probably served as a root cellar.

The quarter had two doorways and a cellar below. One of the doorways opened onto the enclosed yard space which connected the main house to the quarter. The cellar appeared to have been used for general storage.

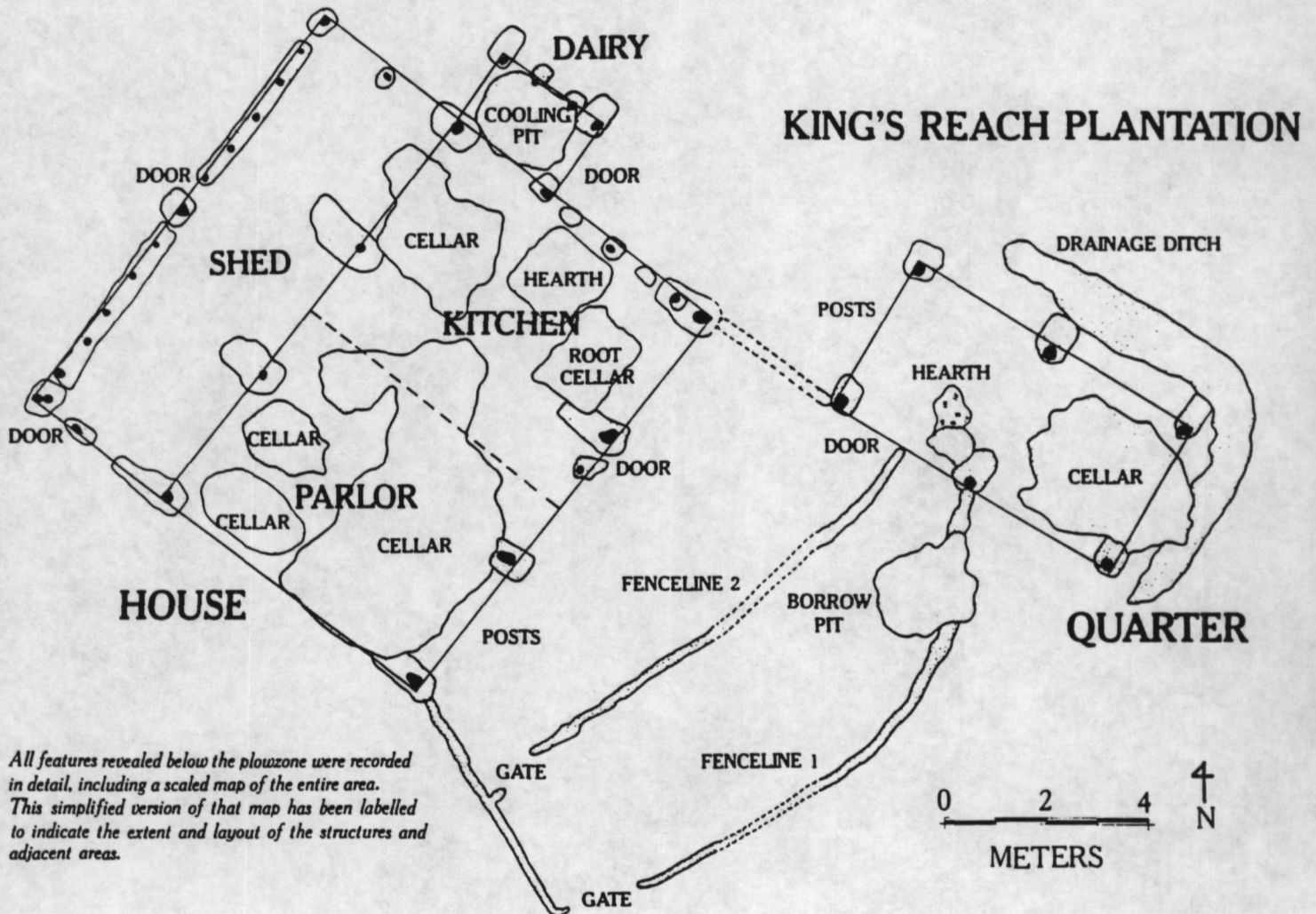
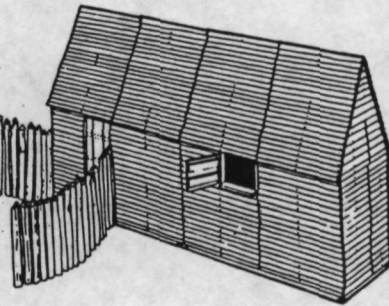
Artifact distributions indicated three main areas of refuse deposition: within old cellar holes beneath the main house, in the yard space between the house and the quarter, and just to the south of the main house. Materials from these depositions included animal bone, oyster shells, "...and the like...." A comparison of food remains from the main house with those from the quarter revealed some significant differences. The main house occupants appear to have enjoyed a diet with greater quantity, quality, and variety of meat.

It is unknown why the site was abandoned. No evidence for a calamity, such as a fire, was recovered. By the second decade of the eighteenth century, many Marylanders were able to move up to larger, more permanent structures. By 1715, the general replacement of indentured servitude with slavery was well underway. Opportunity for advancement and land acquisition was in decline. Perhaps these broad changes in society and opportunity prompted the occupants to abandon the site.

# PLANTATION HOUSE



# QUARTER





5 cm = 1 m

18 Cu 83 King's Recch  
Plan View Below P2

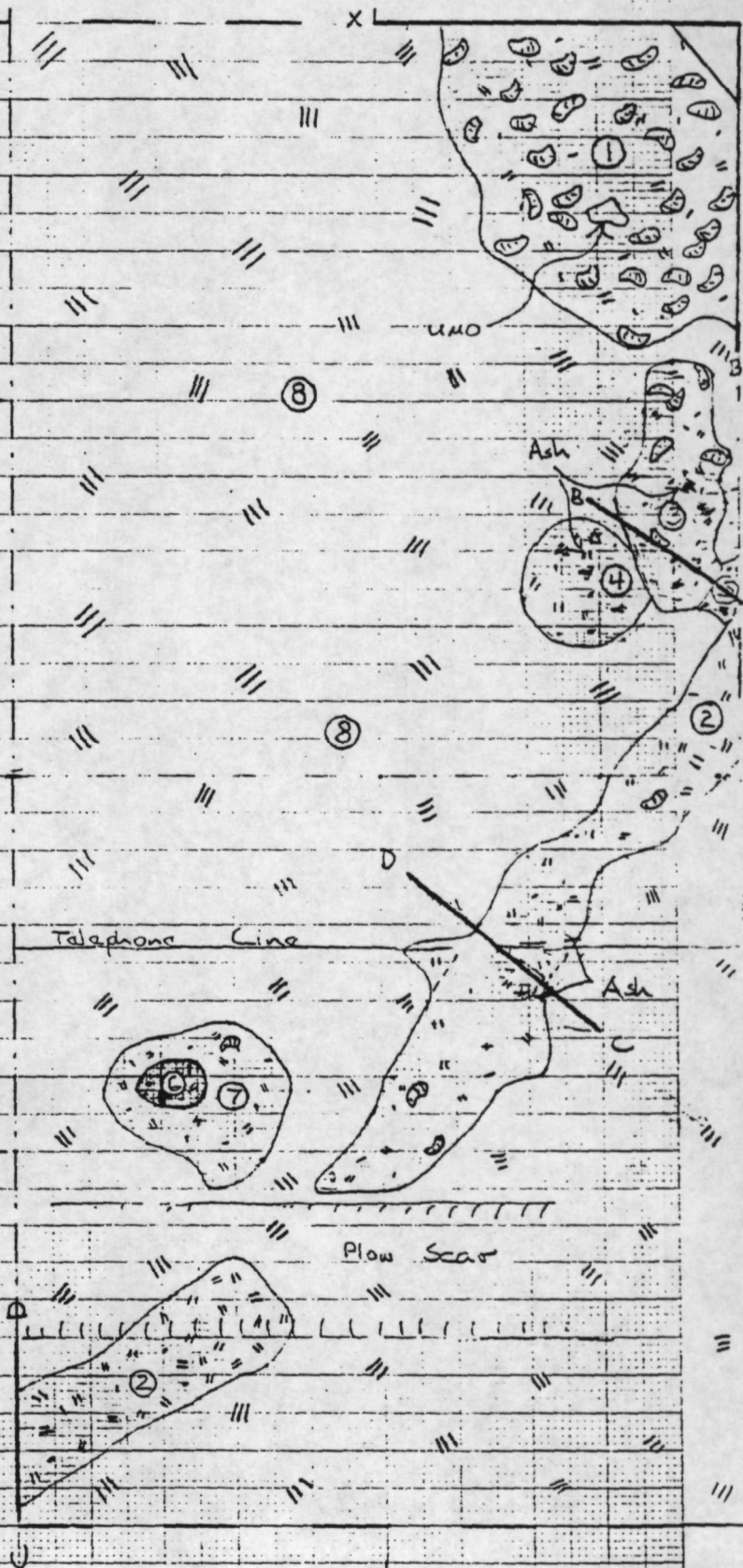
SQ. 184 7/20/84

[Re-plotted, 8-4-85]

N2096/EB12

N2096/EB08

(unexcavated)



KR Site  
Plan View Below P2  
Sq. 184  
Replot - 8-4-85

① Oval intrusion of 95% dark brown (10 YR 3/3) sandy loam mottled w/5% yellowish brown (10 YR 5/6) sandy clay with oyster shell and carbon flecking throughout E184 F.

② Linear intrusion of 80% dark brown (10 YR 3/3) sandy loam, mottled with 15% brownish yellow (10 YR 6/8) sandy clay and 5% yellowish brown (10 YR 5/6) sandy clay, with minute carbon specks throughout and occasional oyster shell and ash (Palmer Ditch). [excavated as 185E/F/G and 184J.]

③ Irregular intrusion of 50% dark brown (10 YR 3/3) sandy loam, thoroughly mixed with 20% very dark grayish brown (10 YR 3/2) sandy loam, 15% brownish yellow (10 YR 6/8) sandy clay, 5% yellowish brown (10 YR 5/6) sandy clay, and 10% gray ash, with minute carbon specks throughout, with occasional oyster shell.

④ Circular intrusion of 60% dark brown (10 YR 3/3) sandy loam, thoroughly mixed with 15% very dark grayish brown (10 YR 3/2) sandy loam, 10% brownish yellow (10 YR 6/8) sandy clay, 5% yellowish brown (10 YR 5/6) sandy clay, and 10% gray ash, with carbon specks throughout.

⑤ Irregular intrusion of 50% yellowish brown (10 YR 5/6) sandy clay, thoroughly mixed with 10% dark brown (10 YR 3/3) sandy loam, 5% brownish yellow (10 YR 6/8) sandy clay, and 35% gray ash, with carbon specks.

⑥ Circular intrusion of 90% dark brown (10 YR 3/3) sandy loam, mottled w/5% very dark grayish brown (10 YR 3/2) sandy loam and 5% yellowish brown (10 YR 5/6) sandy clay and very occasional minute carbon specks (Post mold).



⑦ Irregular intrusion of 70% dark brown (10 YR 3/3) sandy loam, thoroughly mixed with 20% yellowish brown (10 YR 5/6) sandy clay, 5% dark yellowish brown (10 YR 4/6) sandy clay, and 5% dark grayish brown (10 YR 3/2) sandy loam, with occasional minute carbon specks throughout, and occasional oyster shell (Post Hole).

⑧ Subsoil.

18CU B E KING, ET

59.185 FFG  
CROSS SECTION

A-B

8-14-85

JULIE KING

DE STEPHENSON

DJP

10 CENTIMETERS = 1 METER

A 4.538 = MSL B

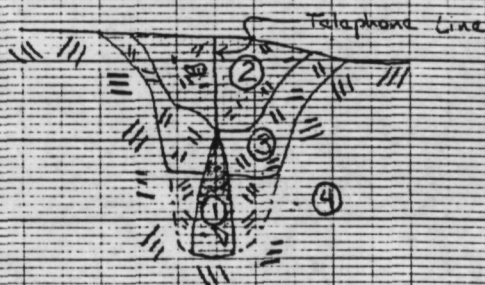
① Paliner mold  
[185 F]

② Paliner ditch  
[185 G]

③ Mottled Loam  
[184 H]

④ Subsoil

C 4.508 = MSL D



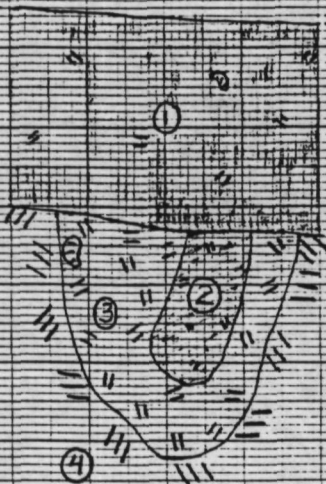
① Telephone line: 90%  
dark brown (10 YR 3/3)  
sandy loam, mottled w/10%  
yellowish brown (10 YR 5/4)  
sandy clay, with occasional  
oyster shell bits.

② (see card) [185 F]

③ (see card) [185 G]

④ Subsoil.

C MSL = 4.837 D



① Plow zone

② Paliner mold [184 K]

③ Paliner ditch [184 J]

④ Subsoil

184 J-K  
X-Section

DJP  
8-22-8

B.S. = .110 Reading = .080

46 1510

18 X 25 CM.

10 X 10 TO THE CENTIMETER  
KEUFFEL & ESSER CO. MADE IN U.S.A.

K&E